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February 13, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: P/D - John Mosher  
FROM: P/DH - Saul S. Geffer  
SUBJECT: Afghan Media Project - Update

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United States Information Agency  
Under the Freedom of Information  
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Based upon conversations with Boston University (BU), the following additional information on the project is available:

- o BU is currently training 32 Afghans in Peshawar. The course work has been divided into print media (10 trainees), Photo Journalism (10 trainees), and video (12 trainees). The initial training segment will end o/a March 14. The BU trainers are presently scheduled to return to the university for 2 weeks.
- o The second training segment for approximately 4-5 weeks will commence o/a April 1 in Peshawar. (Ramadan will occur during the month of May.)
- o BU reports that the training program is running smoothly with no measure of difficulties.
- o It appears that there is a measure of disagreement between BU personnel in Peshawar and The Mercy Fund (MF) representatives in Pakistan. While it may be too early to tell, this negative situation will probably result in a parting of the ways between BU and The Mercy Fund.
- o (P/DH has also received information from USIS Pakistan that problems may be cropping up with MF. At the present time The Mercy Fund President, Anthony Campaigne, will be returning from Pakistan on February 17. There currently is no formal written agreement between BU and MF, although P/DH has a draft. More will be reported on the subject when additional information becomes available.)
- o The tutorial 1-week training course by BU for Afghan representatives of Alliance information committees, information groups, and news services in the U.S. is proceeding. BU has extended invitations to three Afghan offices in the U.S. to participate in the program. M/K will negotiate the necessary amendment

to the BU training grant. It is noted that P/DH correspondence with BU on this short course required that BU give serious consideration to accepting only participants who are not permanently resident in the U.S., who are working on Afghanistan on a global basis rather than solely influencing Americans on the subject, and who will be returning to Pakistan, Afghanistan, or elsewhere.

- o Upon the return of Nick Mills in mid-March, BU will formulate an interim program to implement the project with existing Afghan information groups in Peshawar. This interim plan will proceed while word is awaited from the GOP on an Afghan Director and approval of the Afghan News Service. It is expected that Mills will return to Peshawar and propose an association of existing Afghan information groups/personalities and when a reasonable methodology is worked out, he will convey this information to BU and P/DH will receive a proposal to amend the grant for implementation purposes.

- o At the request of H/C, language was prepared for budgetary documentation for FY 87 (\$350,000) and FY 88 (\$650,000). The BU proposal will cover, at minimum, FY 87 implementation and training activities and may also cover a 12-month period which will include part of FY 88. The training program will be segregated from the implementation portion of the project which will include media production, marketing and distribution and equipment requirements. The training portion of the project will cover basic, intermediate and advanced training of Afghans, trainee expenses and equipment, as well as BU instructional and related costs.

- o P/DH expects to receive a request from BU shortly to acquire additional trainee equipment (video and possibly still photo) to be used during the second training segment. In such event, FY 87 project funds will be utilized and the grant amended.

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Should additional information on any of the above be required,  
please let me know.

bcc: P - CHorner/MSchneider  
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